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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4292
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 5934
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 9492
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 2261
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 2444
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 3001
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 3389
RHHMUNA/CDRUSPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: NEW SCHEDULE FOR ASEAN SUMMITS

REF: MANILA 4935

¶1. (U) Following the December 8 announcement of the postponement of the ASEAN-related Summits in Cebu, citing typhoon threats (reftel), the Philippine Government now expects to host these events, again in Cebu, January 12-15. Most of the East Asia Summit leaders have already indicated their readiness to appear, including Japan, China, and Australia, with New Zealand and India expected to respond favorably soon. It looks like South Korea may send its prime minister rather than its president, however. Burma's Than Shwe again will not appear, but the other ASEAN leaders will.

¶2. (U) The new schedule is:
January 12: EAS Foreign Ministers
January 13: ASEAN Summit, ASEAN - China Summit
January 14: ASEAN 3 Summit, ASEAN - Korea Summit, ASEAN - Japan Summit, and ASEAN - India Summit
January 15: East Asia Summit

¶3. (SBU) According to the Japanese Embassy, the Philippines specifically moved the EAS from January 14 to January 15 in order to accommodate Prime Minister Abe's European travel schedule, so the Japanese decided they were obliged to attend, despite Prime Minister Abe's bilateral visit to Manila December 8-10 (septel).

¶4. (U) Pol/C will be present in Cebu for the summits, not as a participant but in order to indicate U.S. interest in the outcomes and for reporting purposes.

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